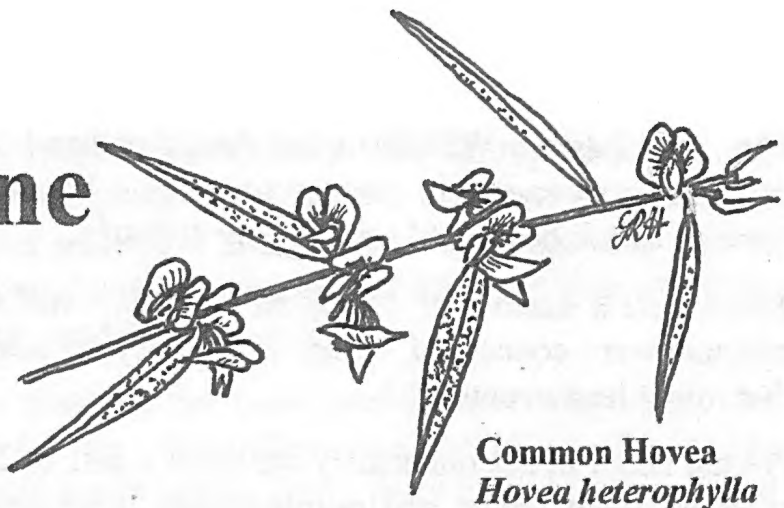


Castlemaine

Naturalist

October 2005

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Common Hovea
Hovea heterophylla

Forget the mowing, weeding and spring cleaning....

..instead enjoy a weekend of excursions (Oct 14 -16) with the members of the Ringwood FNC. Starting with a talk on Plants of the Box-Ironbark Forest on Friday night (14 Oct.), Ern Perkins has planned a comprehensive weekend of local excursions. See October Programme on page 12 for details.

Love is in the Air

On a recent short visit to the Healesville Sanctuary with Angela Munro, George and I enjoyed seeing the developments that have taken place since we were last there some 30 years ago! The latest is a very whizz bang up-to-date platypusary which is designed to demonstrate a totally different perspective on the care and breeding of platypus. It is an insight into the behind-the-scenes care of this animal, and brings into public view activities that were previously off-limits. The older World of the Platypus exhibit still gives a better view of the animals themselves.

However, the most rewarding time of our visit came in one of the aviaries – we had missed the time for visiting the birds of prey, so we strolled into a pleasant space for smaller birds to find that Spring was truly in the air.

The glossy male Satin Bowerbird was pottering about, wondering what else he could find to make **his** bower the one to impress that lovely olive green female. There were a few blue bits and pieces, but he hadn't quite come up to her standards yet. She sat upon a branch, looking at his little collection slightly disdainfully while he bustled off hoping that his beady eye would spy another blue bottle top or drinking straw. Had we known of his dilemma we probably could have helped, but as it was we had to move on.

We met two beautiful Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves, with their gorgeous pink crowns, grey green breasts and lilac tummies, quietly fluttering from path to tree and back again – they looked very committed - no eyes for anyone but each other, and they didn't mind that we were quite close by; courtship looked pretty well on the way to something more permanent.

The two Eastern Whipbirds on the other hand had only got to the stage of conducting an energetic teenage romance – hooning about, skimming just over the tops of our heads and very noisily at that!

There were a number of Diamond Firetails – still making their choices as far as partners were concerned – they were partying together, and who knows where that might lead eventually!

Poking about in the understory we spied a pair of Emerald Doves – magnificent emerald green wings and purple-brown head and neck – lots of billing and cooing to each other, and plans afoot I thought for an increase in the population.

But the most delightful sight of all was the many little Chestnut-breasted Mannikins which flew about us, swooping up and down and showing off their very pretty raiment. I have never seen them before, and who better than Simpson and Day to describe them as having *"deep brown crown to upper mantle covered in fine grey chevrons. Warm brown back; orange rump and straw yellow tail. Bright chestnut breast divided from white abdomen by narrow black band. Narrow short black bars edging flanks."* They have quite a heavy bill of a blueish silver colour – just right for nest building I'd say! Standing by the edge of the path, we noticed that one little bird was paying lots of attention to a clump of tallish grass right at our feet. Fascinated, we stood quietly and noticed that the centre of the grass was all fastened down into a ball shape, and that Mr Mannikin repeatedly flew off to a *Melaleuca armillaris* close by, snapping off a soft little tip (bigger than himself), flying back busily and popping it into the ball shaped grass. In an effort to see a little more I leant down toward the nest; as I did so, the little female flew out - (I hope I didn't alarm her too much) – she was obviously in charge of interior decoration and the placing of the soft lining for her nest. We'll have to go back to see if there was a result of all this activity in the form of a little family.

It was a treat and a privilege to see so many birds happily going about the business of procreation in an aviary - the staff at Healesville must be doing something right.

Phee Broadway

Look out for banded Flame Robins this winter.

Jan (Ph. 5443 5668) and Glenise (Ph. 5439 6254) have been banding Flame Robins in the North Harcourt/ Sedgewick area and would be very interested to hear from any members sighting Flame Robins with "bangles on". Flame Robins are distinguished from Scarlet Robins in that the orange breast colour starts immediately under the bill and continues to the legs.

Notes from a fairly observant fellow, July '05 -Tony Morton

Friends in W.A. told us they were going camping in a National Park north of Kalgoorlie. To their horror, we said we'd like to come too. But they looked after us superbly, providing most of our camping kit and even advising about the quality of the thermal underwear needed in the cold.

We stayed with them in their place in the bush near Dunsborough first, just South of Busselton, on Geographe Bay. Dryandras were coming into flower and the shrubs and wattles were loaded with buds. Saw a party of eight White-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding in Karris (or is it Marris!), ripping their huge gumnuts open with ease. One was being harried by a magpie a third its size. Successfully, too, for the WTBC made off with a squawk. Saw the Western Spine-bill here. Very smart; less anorexic-looking than its Eastern cousin. Also saw the Scarlet Robin.

The four of us tried putting up the five-star-type tent we'd been lent for the first time. Strong language was largely avoided, but it took us an hour and a half.

A party of eleven followed the Golden Pipe-line from Perth to Kalgoorlie. Envisioned by C.Y. (for Yelverton) O'Connor, it was built at the end of the 1900s first for the goldminers, next for the railway, then for the farmers, and now is what keeps Kalgoorlie going, I believe. Our route took us to Mundaring Weir, Cunderdin, Merredin, Ghooli, and Boondi. We saw immense pumping stations (the water had to be gradually lifted some 600 metres from sea-level on its journey) and took note of O'Connor's 'locking bar' method of sealing the pipes to eliminate evaporation. (The Pipeline was successfully completed by the end of January 1903. Alas, O'Connor, worn out by criticism and the pessimism of both people and press, had committed suicide the previous March.)

Huge, smooth, gently rounded areas of rock erupted from the ground here and there. Walls had been built along the bases to channel any rainwater into dams. We saw a memorial to the farmers who had defended their crops in the Emu War of 1930 with rifles and machine guns. The emus must have lost the war, for we didn't see one. We camped for a couple of nights *en route*. Tent Erection Time improved slightly. Cocoa with lots of brandy began to become essential to ensure a good night's sleep.

We reached our destination on Day 4, Goongarrie Station, acquired by CALM (Conservation and Land Management). There were shearers' huts and showers that sometimes worked well. We gave the tent a miss. Plenty of firewood (largely old jarrah floorboards) and some lovely walks through mallee, Prickly Moses (a corruption of 'mimosa', I was told convincingly) and Spinifex clumps. Birds seen: Mistletoebird, Australian Ringneck, Hooded Robin, Pied Butcherbird, Crested Bellbird, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Grey Shrike-thrush among others. *Eremophilas* were earnestly discussed by the boffins. Wedge-tailed Eagles fed on roadkill, looking slightly sheepish, as well they might.

We drove one day to Lake Ballard, to see Anthony Gormley's installation of 51 life-sized sculptures (based on the vital statistics of the local people of Menzies, it seems). Curiously elongated, heads shaped a little like the Easter Island heads, they loom here and there, singly, hundreds of metres apart, over most of the enormous salt lake. There's a small, conical hill from where you can get a good panoramic overview. I was not sure quite how much of a gimmick it all is, but it's probably worth a visit. It is certainly a huge achievement.

Old gold-mining centres abound. Miners here had often come from Victoria, having started in California, and then went on to Johannesburg, following the gold-rush. We visited Siberia, aptly named: eight graves, marked by quartz blocks, in the middle of a bare acre of ground. Nearby was the legendary pub at Ora Banda, beautifully built in pink sandstone. It's for sale once more, bloody recent past and all, with its caravan park, motel units and 'accommodation for single men', for \$299,000. There was no-one in Ora Banda. Next was Broad Arrow, so called because the discoverer had said he would mark the way from Kalgoorlie with them. The walls of this corrugated tin pub are entirely covered with customers' writing, even the ceiling; mainly names, but also the occasional comment on the beer and the barmaid. Here most of us had a 'Broadie' - a delicious hamburger with egg and bacon - 'the lot'.

On the drive back to Bunbury, this time cutting through some nearly flowering heathland near Hyden, I saw a Bush Stone-curlew, beautifully marked, knees appropriately thick. It walked off into the bush before I had time to photograph it. Funnily enough, the only two species of butterfly I'd seen so far were the last two I'd seen in Victoria before we'd left: the Meadow Argus and the Salt-bush Blue! Summer would have been more productive, of course, as some very interesting endemic Lycaenids can turn up in this dry country.

Geraldton was much milder (12 - 25°), and there was much sun. They'd had a lot of rain in the previous weeks and fields and bushland were very green. All was ready to burst into flower; some greenhood and sun orchids were already out, and another couple of butterflies were seen: the Two-spotted Line-blue hovering round the buds of Wattle (esp. *A. xanthina* and *A. rostellifera*), on which its larvae feed, and the Yellow Admiral.

Among birds seen on foreshore, at Chapman River valley, and in heathland were: Emu (tame ones on a permaculture farm), Pacific Duck, Grey Teal, Darter, Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-necked Heron, Great Egret, Osprey (looking sheepish too, perched on a pole overlooking a fish-gutting table waiting for a meal), Silver Gull, Laughing Turtle-Dove, Crested Pigeon, Little Corella, Galah, Pallid Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher, White-eared Honeyeater, Singing Honeyeater, Black-faced Woodswallow, Australian Magpie, Grey Currawong, Australian Raven, White-backed Swallow, Welcome Swallow. I have a complete list of Birds of the

Geraldton Area (including the Houtman Abrolhos islands) if anyone is interested.

We saw broom here and there, but it does not seem to be considered a problem. Of more concern are the African Boxthorn and some very invasive grasses, also from South Africa. No Sparrows, Mynahs or Starlings have taken a hold in W.A. though the Laughing Turtle-Dove is spreading, I was told, and the Cabbage White butterfly was flying everywhere. 'Wild' Honeybees were swarming along the river valley.

Geraldton is a pleasant, prosperous town; even though all the Rock Lobsters they catch go to Asian (and French!) markets and are not available to the ordinary visitor. It has a good museum (which concentrates on the *Batavia* shipwreck), an excellent Regional Art Gallery, a new Theatre complex, a Cathedral, and a fine memorial to the 645 dead of HMAS Sydney (which was sunk a bit further north by a German warship in 1941; Geraldton had been its last Australian port). Much work is being done to revegetate the foreshore with indigenous plants and there is great civic pride.

We enjoyed our trip, but it's always good to be back.

Ken and Maureen - Moving North.

Just a line to let our friends and fellow members know that we are on the move from the start of November.

Due to Maureens ongoing health problems we are moving up to Barham NSW on my retirement, for a change of climatic conditions and lifestyle, including spending the southern winters in even more northerly climes.

We would like to thank everyone involved for their help and support during our years as members of the Field Nats.

In 2006 we will be "Birding Australia" for most of the year and will keep in touch with notes of our travels etc via email, if Maureen remembers how to use it! – otherwise snail mail will suffice.

After that we will be based at Barham and if any of you are in the area we would love a visit.

Our new address will be P O Box 337, BARHAM, NSW 2739 and phone number 0439 395002.

Once again thanks to all, and keep up the good work. We hope to be able to drop in at a meeting now and then when we are in the area.

Ken and Maureen Dredge

Editor: Ken and Maureen, you will be missed by all CFNC members – such reliable and enthusiastic workers for our club for many years and always so generous with your wealth of birding knowledge. Some members believe the birds actually come to see Ken – now that's a hard act to replace! We wish you well in your new location and on your travels and look forward to staying in touch.

Mandurang – Bendigo National Park. 10.9.05

Leaders: R. Piesse/ R. Mills.

In an area behind the Mandurang Hall, plants in flower included:

Billy Buttons - *Craspedia* sp., Common Beard-heath - *Leucopogen virgatus*, Common Early Nancy - *Wurmbea dioica*, Common Hovea - *Hovea heterophylla*, Common Wood-rush - *Luzula meridionalis*, * Cootamundra Wattle - *Acacia baileyana*, Diuris x - possibly a Broad-lip Diuris, Downy Grevillea - *Grevillea alpina*, Dusky Fingers - *Caladenia fuscata*, Dwarf Greenhood - *Pterostylis nana*, Fairy Wax-flower - *Philotheca verrucosa*, Gold-dust Wattle - *Acacia acinacea*, Golden Moths - *Diuris chryseopsis*, Golden Wattle - *Acacia pycnantha*, Goldfields Grevillea - *Grevillea dryophylla*, Gorse Bitter-pea - *Daviesia ulicifolia*, Hedge Wattle - *Acacia paradoxa*, Honey-pots - *Acrotriche serrulata*, Leopard Orchid - *Diuris pardina*, Murnong/Yam Daisy - *Microseris* sp, Nodding Greenhood - *Pterostylis nutans*, Pink-bells - *Tetratheca ciliata*, Purple Coral-pea - *Hardenbergia violacea*, Rough Wattle - *Acacia aspera*, Scented Sundew - *Drosera whittakeri* ssp *aberams*, Silver Wattle - *Acacia dealbata*, Spreading Wattle - *Acacia genisifolia*, Tall Sundew - *Drosera peltata* ssp *auriculata*, Tiny Star - *Hypoxis glabella*, Variable Sword-sedge - *Lepidosperma laterale*, Wax-lip Orchid - *Glossodia major*, White Marianth - *Rhytidosporum procumbens*

Geraldine Harris

Mandurang Walk – Discussion points

There was some discussion about the correct name for the small pink-flowered orchid. It was identified as *Caladenia fuscata*, which differs from Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*) in that it flowers earlier (in this district), the outside of the flower has dark-brown glandular hairs, and the labellum side-lobes have a triangular forward-pointing extension.

Both Tall and Pale Sundews were growing in the area, but only the former was seen in flower. Tall Sundew (subspecies *auriculata*) differs from Pale Sundew (subspecies *peltata*) in that it usually grows in drier places, does not have a basal rosette of leaves, and the sepals are smooth and not hairy.

Ern Perkins

O'Reilley's Rainforest Guesthouse – George Broadway

O'Reilley's Guesthouse is located on Mt Lamington in S.E. Queensland in the McPherson Ranges almost on the N.S.W. border. We had decided to stay overnight in a location quite close, so that we could arrive reasonably early in the day, i.e. in time for lunch. So we left Beaudesert and drove to Canungra where we fortified ourselves with a coffee before tackling the 30 or so km to O'Reilley's. The road from Canungra is very winding and there are many single-lane sections where traffic in one direction must give way, so it is not a very fast drive. Eventually however we arrived and were shown to our room, which like all the others had a magnificent view across the ranges with the spectacular Mt Lindsay in centre field.

My daughter had given me two nights at O'Reilley's as a Xmas present, so we decided to visit there while on the way to visit our other daughter in Brisbane, who had given me two nights at Binna-Burra for Fathers' Day a couple of years ago. While at Binna-Burra we had some tantalising glimpses of Regent Bower-birds, but only glimpses. Much to our delight, when lunch is served at O'Reilley's, lunch is also served outside the dining-room window for the birds, where we saw close views of Regent and Satin Bower-birds and Lewin's Honeyeaters.

Lunch being what it is at O'Reilley's, a long energetic walk was called for in the afternoon before fronting up for a more than ample dinner at night. There are various walks from which to choose, and there is the choice of one or two guided tours, possibly involving the guesthouse bus. We opted to do our own thing, hoping to see more birds if by ourselves. What we did see were many rainforest giants, some of which had labels attached, but all we could see were the lower trunks, as the leaves were way above the forest canopy. Most of the names were unfamiliar to us of course, being rainforest species. The birds were not exactly plentiful, although there was much calling, which we later realised was from the Lewin's Honeyeater. We were hoping to see a Rifle-bird, an Albert's Lyrebird, a Pitta and a Logrunner, but were disappointed. However we did see a Logrunner on a previous one-day visit. I believe we heard a Lyre-bird on one of our walks but did not manage to spot it. However we were informed by one of the guides that that was one of the areas normally frequented by Lyrebirds.

Next morning we were up bright and early for the dawn walk, when one of the guides takes a group for a short walk in the vicinity of the guesthouse, starting with some dishes of chopped fruit being placed on posts of the front fence. Immediately this was done flocks of Bower-birds and others arrived for their breakfast. The guides also put out minute quantities of food mixture for the small birds, so that on the walk we had very close views of Scrub-wrens and Yellow Robins. It was noted that the Scrub-turkeys often had the company of one or more of the smaller birds that picked up the smaller morsels which the Turkeys uncovered with their scratching. Whipbirds were constantly calling, but were not usually visible, but one came and perched right next to the path on a low branch, turning itself this way and that for our close inspection, obviously quite accustomed to this show every morning.

Birds seen at O'Reilley's

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Crimson Rosella | Superb Fairy-wren | Yellow-throated Scrub-wren |
| White-browed Scrub-wren | Brown Thornbill | Lewin's Honeyeater |
| Eastern Yellow Robin | Eastern Whipbird | Golden Whistler |
| Grey Shrike-thrush | Grey Butcher-bird | Magpie |
| Pied Currawong | Green Catbird | Satin Bower-bird |
| Regent Bower-bird | Red-browed Finch | Bassian Thrush |

Stradbroke Island – George Broadway

While staying in Brisbane recently we decided to spend a couple of nights on Nth Stradbroke Island. To do this it was necessary to drive through Brisbane to Cleveland where we caught the ferry. There are various ferries, the one we took takes vehicles and has upstairs a large passenger lounge where one can while away the time drinking coffee. Or other. The trip takes about an hour. After landing on the west coast at Dunwich, we had about 20km to drive to Point Lookout on the N.E. tip where we had booked accommodation. The roadside was mostly heavily wooded, with Eucalypts and Melaleucas, but the plant that impressed was the Wedding-bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*), with many plants, some up to about 3 m and covered in white flowers. The weather was perfect, calm, cloudless and warm, which was made all the better when we watched the news that night and saw that Victoria was having SNOW. Our room was up several flights of stairs, with a large balcony looking out over a small woodland of large Melaleucas towards Moreton Island. From the balcony we could watch the dolphins passing and various seabirds patrolling up and down, or fishing.

Next morning having introduced ourselves to friends of friends, we were invited to come along on the walk which they had planned. This took us along an old mine access track through forest country, past a lake and eventually to the top of an escarpment over looking Moreton Bay. Unfortunately I did not spot many birds as our companions were walkers (members of a walking club) and intent on covering distance. Also, on this day the weather from Victoria was arriving, so it was overcast, and in fact at the end of the walk it actually started to rain, lightly. The thing which impressed us about the vegetation was the large quantity of *Austromyrtus dulcis*, or Midyim. We have a few plants in our garden here, but they do not grow anything like the way they do on Stradbroke. The other striking feature was the number of grass-trees. We have one, but after several years it has only grown a few leaves.. Other plants in flower were Boronia and Hovea, not the one we have here, but one growing up to about 1m. On our visits to Queensland we are always envious of the magnificent specimens of *Grevillea banksii* and the various hybrids. On Stradbroke they grow extremely well, and must be a delight for the Honeyeaters.

Lookout Point itself, the Point, not the village, was named by Captain Cook in passing. From the top of the cliffs passing whales may be spotted, but although we walked around the scenic clifftop walk, (in the rain), no whale would show its face. Dolphins on the other hand, were plentiful. On our first day we had a picnic lunch in the clifftop garden under a *Casuarina* sp. We were thoroughly entertained by a Brown Honeyeater which perched on a branch just above us and called loudly, as they do. The clifftop walk is of recent construction and affords excellent views of the two gorges where the waves come rushing in, and vantage points from which any whales could be spotted. However they do have a problem. Much of the headland is covered with a rampant growth of

Asparagus Fern, the thick one with the red berries, which they have received a grant to remove, according to the notice beside the path

Once from the balcony I watched a Whistling Kite being attacked by magpies. It flew off, but returned a short time later in the company of a Brahminy Kite. At least it appeared that the two flew along together. Another time a White-breasted Sea Eagle flew majestically past. Out at sea were many birds, mostly too far off to identify, but they included Gannets and Caspian Terns. Here too was some excitement, a new bird, for me. While scanning the Melaleucas I noticed in passing several very red leaves but continued on. At the end of the scan I returned to the red leaves, just in case. Fortunately I was in time to see one the leaves turn into a Scarlet Honeyeater, but by the time I called Phee out to the balcony, it had disappeared.

On our last morning, just before we left, I thought I would have one last check with the binocs. Lo and behold, out at sea there was the unmistakeable spray of a whale, followed by the sight of one breaching. This time Phee did see them too. However just as she went inside to finish packing, again the Scarlet Robin appeared, only to disappear again before she could return.

George Broadway

Additions to the Castlemaine Plant List.

A single Slender Mint Bush (*Prostanthera saxicola*) was found growing at the edge of the road in the Smith Reef Forest. This is the first local record for the plant list. Slender Mint Bush is usually found further north (e.g. at Mandurang). As the name suggests, it is a slender shrub with very narrow leaves.

The Brown Stringybark in Smiths Reef is probably an undescribed sub-species. An additional stand was noted near Donkey Farm Track.

An addition to the weed list is *Galaxia (Moraea fugassissima)* which is growing in Hargaves Street. It resembles a bright-yellow flowered, short-stalked Onion Grass. It has also been recorded for the eastern side of Mt Alexander and is quite common near Big Hill.

There has been some revision of the Sticky Boronia group. Examination of the plants at Irishtown and Muckleford show that these are *Boronia anemonifolia* ssp *anemonifolia*. This is the most common subspecies. Other subspecies are on the rare and endangered list.

Ern Perkins

Web News

Mandurang Excursion Report plus photos is online.

Ern is seeking photographs of excursions to include on the web site.

Do you know of good natural history sites? If so, please tell our web co-ordinator, so that a link can be added to our web site

Observations

- At Pound Lane Guildford an Eastern Rosella and a Crimson Rosella seem to have formed some kind of bond - frequenting the bird feeder together and staying together even when other Crimson Rosellas are close by in the paddock. Beri Perry
- Albert Golden brought a large Black Rock Scorpion he found in his garden to the meeting – one of nine species that occur in Victoria. Though common at Black Hill and in the Macedon Ranges, Albert has not noticed them before.
- Helen and Chris Morris reported that the Boronia at Irishtown is still mainly in bud. Recalling a fine display 10 years ago and the drought affected seasons of late, reports suggest this season is looking promising for a good display.
- Ern Perkins pointed out that the warm evening had brought moths swarming outside at the window of the meeting room.
- Two sightings of Button Quail this week on the property of Hans and Anne van Gemert – as the understorey is restored the birds are increasing.
- Swift Parrots have been in the area for 164 days this season and are still about. Also noted - Black-chinned Honeyeater, Mopoke, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Horsefield's Cuckoo and White-browed Babblers continually tapping at windows. Debbie Worland
- In the Blakeley Rd area Magpies are looking for food; Australian Raven and the Little Ravens are also about. Rita Mills
- A resourceful Scarlet Robin flew into the workshop, hovered about and finally landed on Geoff Harris's head – looking for nest lining no doubt!
- Not so friendly magpie tried to swoop Phee Broadway in their backyard. The resident owls in the Botanic Gardens are about. George Broadway
- Green Gully road a picture with wattles in full bloom. Chris Morris
- Tawny frogmouths in a large tree at the Winters Flat School. Natasha Harris

Disclaimer - The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Club.

Subscriptions for 2005

Ordinary membership: Single \$22, Family \$30

Pensioner or student: Single \$19, Family \$24

The subscription includes postage of the *Castlemaine Naturalist*.

Richard's Observations - since 25/8/05

26/8 Vacinity of Kalimna Tourist Road. Acacias (aspera, genistifolia, pycnantha), Sundews (Scented and Tall), Hovea heterophylla, Hakea decurrens ssp, Hardenbergia violacea, Grevillea rosmarinifolia

27/8 To Monk via Eureka St and return via race. Acacias (acinacea, aspera, genistifolia, pycnantha), Grevillea rosmarinifolia, Hovea heterophylla, Blue Fingers, Scented and Tall Sundews, Wax-flowers, Early Nancy, Daviesia ulcifolia, Hardenbergia violacea, Hakea decurrens ssp, Renunculus sp, Dianella admixta. Fantastic fern regrowth on The Monk and along the Poverty Gully Race.

3/9 In the CDNHP west of Glenluce

Acacias (acinacea, aculeatissima, aspera, dealbata, genistifolia, gunnii, lanigera, paradoxa, pycnantha), Lucopogon virgata, Epacris impressa, Common Hovea, Hakea decurrens ssp, Grevillea alpina, Blue Fingers, Dwarf Greenhoods, Tall Sundews, Correa refexa, thousands of Baeckea ramosissima (Eiromytus not Baeckea), Hardenbergia violacea and heavily chewed Daviesia.

6/9 Erin Court, Muckleford

Leopard Orchids, Pink Fingers, Hardenbergia violacea, Daviesia ulcifolia, Acacias (acinacea, aspera, pycnantha).

7/9 Taradale Walking Group - east of Fryers Range Fire Tower. Wonderful display of wildflower colour in a 2005-06 proposed control burn area.

9/9 Kalimna, Moonlight Flat, Dirty Dick's Gully, Deadman's Gully, Forest Creek valley, GDT back to Castlemaine

Start of Walk- Acacias (acinacea, aspera, genisifolia, pycnantha), Daviesia ulcifolia, Common Hovea, Wax-flowers, Hakea decurrens ssp, Tall Sundews, Golden Moths, Hardenbergia violacea, Grevillea alpina, Rosemary grevillea, Later in walk- Acacia (dealbata, gunnii, paradaoxa) and Early Nancy

For Your Diary

Sept 30 –Oct 7 Birds Australia Congress - Bendigo. C Morris. Ph. 9885 4221
Registrations: <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/congress>.

Sun 2 Oct. Newstead Landcare walk to Rise and Shine Reserve. Gary Cheers

Sun 2 Oct. Weed removal at Scout Hall. Margaret Panter 54705072 (7am-8pm)

Mon 10 Oct. Removal of 94 trees along Pyrenees Highway. Meeting adjourned to 5pm, Phee Broadway Theatre. Members are encouraged to attend

Sun 16 Oct. FOBIB Muckleford Forest. 8 km, BYO lunch. Leaving from IGA carpark, Forest St. 9.30am. Geoff Nevill 5472 2853.

Oct 23 Friends of Kalimna Park Working Bee – top of Lyttleton St. 9.30am. Bring own tools. Morning tea provided. Ph. 5472 5343

Articles Welcome - Articles, reports and observations can be left at Tonks Bros. in Barkers St. or sent to Geraldine Harris, P.O.Box 703, Castlemaine, 3450. Ph. 5474 2244, or gedharris@castlemaine.net Please submit articles by the fourth Thursday of the month.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Programme – October 2005

General meetings (second Friday of each month, except January) are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) Hall (enter from Lyttleton St.) at 8.00 pm.

Excursions (Saturday following the general meeting) leave from the carpark opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street at 1.30pm sharp unless stated otherwise. BYO morning and afternoon tea. Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days.

Business meetings - fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at 27 Doveton Street, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS.

Wednesday Evening Wildflower Walks. All these walks depart from carpark, opp. motel in Duke St. at 4pm sharp and return at 5.30pm. Contact G. Harris.

Wed 5 Oct. Walk (4). Claypits, Blanket Gully Rd. Richard Piesse

Wed 12 Oct. Walk (5). Quartz Hill Track. Michael Kennedy/G. Harris

Fri 14 Oct. Plants of the Box-Ironbark Forest. Ern Perkins. UCA hall at 8pm.

Sat 15 Oct– Sun 16 Oct. Three Excursions with Ringwood FNC.

Leader: Ern Perkins. 54723124.

Sat. am. Muckleford Forest and Red White and Blue Walk (about 5km). Meet opposite motel in Duke St. at 9.30am. **Lunch will be at the Botanic gardens.**

Sat pm. Guildford via the Monk, control burn sites, ecological thinning site, Spring Gully turnoff, Fryerstown, Irishtown, Glenluce Springs, Vaughan Springs, the Big Tree. Meet opposite motel in Duke St. at 1.30pm.

Sun am and pm. Drummond via Chinamans Point, Expedition Pass, Elphinstone, Taradale, Humboldt. Meet opposite the motel in Duke St. at 9.30am. Take lunch.

Fri 11 Nov. Walking the Flinders Ranges. John Lindner. UCA hall at 8pm.

Sat 12 Nov. Wewak Track/ Porcupine Ridge. Richard Piesse 54723191.

Sat 3 Dec. Annual Bird Challenge Count. Time to be announced.

Fri 9 Dec. Members and Visitors Night. Program provided by members. UCA hall at 8pm.

Sat 10 Dec. Christmas Excursion - Blackwood.

2005 Committee

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| Rita Mills (Pres).....Ph. 5472 4553 | George Broadway (Sec)..Ph. 5472 2513 |
| Hans van Gemert (Treas)Ph. 5472 1082 | Richard Piesse.....Ph.5472 3191 |
| Ern Perkins (Web).....Ph. 5472 3124 | Athol Dorman.....Ph. 5472 4429 |
| Nigel Harland.....Ph. 5474 8246 | Chris MorrisPh. 9885 4221 |
| Geraldine Harris (Ed)..Ph. 5474 2244, gedharris@castlemaine.net | |

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